SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.—The company is responsible for it. Because cash credit to the extent of Rs. 8 lakhs has been allowed, it does not necessarily mean that the whole of it will be actually availed of.

MR. S. C. MALLIAH.—Are the Government satisfied that there is adequate security for all the amounts advanced and the cash credit allowed ?

FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL.—As I already observed, this is a matter which had better not be discussed on the floor of this House.

REPRESENTATIONS—(*Continued*).

No. 10.—Reduction of the rate of compensation in revenue sales.

Messrs. Venkatagiri Rao, Melavarige, and Venkatagiriappa, Kanle, Sagar Taluk.

MR. VENKATAGIRI RAO represented that the compensation to be awarded to the sale purchasers of lands sold for arrears of land revenue may be reduced from 5 per cent to 1 per cent.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL regretted that it was not possible to accede to the request.

No. 11.—Grant of Government lands free of cost to poor landless raiyats as in the case of Adikarnatakas.

Mr. M. S. Puttarama Setty, Magadi Taluk.

MR. M S. PUTTARAMA SETTY represented that many people in the State were labouring under difficulties without food and drink, without houses or quarters to live in and without money for undertaking any profession or calling. When landless people applied for the grant of lands, the practice obtaining at present was to dispose of such lands by public auction. Government were quite aware that when such people somehow managed to collect a small sum of money for obtaining the land in public auction, they were prevented from securing the same by rich people who competed and obtained the lands by offering higher bids. Consequently, poor people were unable to improve their position. For these reasons he prayed that lands might be arranged to be given free of cost to poor landless people without any distinction.

THE REVENUE COMMISSIONER observed that it was only in very special cases that land was given free of cost and it may not be possible for the Government to accept a general request of this nature.

MR. PUTTARAMA SETTY suggested that a general rule be framed to the effect that in all specially deserving cases, lands should be granted free of cost.

THE REVENUE COMMISSIONER replied that a general rule to that effect would by itself serve no purpose. Besides, it was not a matter in which discretion could be allowed to the local officers. Each case would have to go up to Government and if the circumstances warranted, Government would be prepared to show concessions.

MR. H. K. MADIAH said he was glad that such special concessions were being shown in the case of Adikarnatakas and wanted that similar concessions should be extended to the other communities also, considering that there were many persons even among those communities who deserved such a concession.

MR. K. V. VEERANNA also supported this view.

MESSRS. ABDUL KHALEEL and H. K. MADIAH brought to notice that even if the departmental officers were satisfied that an applicant was in need of special concession, they were invariably bringing to auction the concerned land for the reason that more than one application was received. Very often, it so happened that the moment a really deserving man applied for a particular land, several others, including well-to-do persons would also put in applications, with the result that, much to the detriment of the former, the land would be auctioned out. As a result of such a procedure, landless people continued as such, while well-to-do persons went on acquiring more and more land.

MR. V. VENKATAPPA brought to notice that in all cases where lands had been granted free of cost on account of such special considerations, they were of very poor quality so that the applicants never got any benefit out of them. Good land was never granted and

even if there was only one applicant deserving of special concession, the land applied for, if it was valuable, was brought to auction. He said that this procedure should be liberalised in favour of landless people.

THE DEWAN replied that in all deserving cases, Government would be very pleased to grant land free of cost. But this concession would be subject to two reservations, *viz.*, that each case must be recommended by the Deputy Commissioner and secondly, that very valuable lands would not be granted free, however deserving the applicants might be.

No. 12.—Grant of lands to educated unemployed persons of the Mysore University.

Messrs. Abdul Jaleel Saheb, Narasimharajapura Sub-Taluk; and M. Siddalingappa Setty, Chikmagalur Taluk.

MR. ABDUL JALEEL SAHEB prayed that if educated unemployed persons of the Mysore University applied for grant of lands for cultivation, Government *banjar* lands on *shraya* tenure, not exceeding 8 or 10 acres, free of cost, with a loan of not less than Rs. 300 repayable in 10 years might be ordered to be granted to them.

MR. H. M. CHANNABASAPPA, in supporting the representation, said that on account of unemployment, a number of graduates of the University were unable to earn their own livelihood or to serve the interests of the country in any way. At this rate, they would become a burden on the State and it was up to the Government to consider how to get the best out of them for the State. Large extents of land were available in several parts of the State and they might with advantage be entrusted to such graduates for bringing them under cultivation. It was possible for these men, with the benefit of the high education received by them to derive full benefit from such lands and to help to improve the economic position of the State. He would go further than the mover of the representation and say that larger plots than 10 acres might be granted to educated men.

MR. S. C. MALLIAH observed that though the scheme was likely to look grand on paper, yet from a practical point of view it was not likely to succeed. That was the case, he said, with the Bhadra Colonisation scheme also. Some educated young men were selected for bringing under cultivation large extents of dry and wet land in that area and, in addition, Government had given to each of them several thousands of rupees. Unfortunately, the whole scheme had failed, and he was given to understand that most of them were about to give up their lands and return to their places. That was an example to show that agriculture which demanded so much of hardihood was not an industry meant for highly educated persons. In preference, therefore, to the scheme as adumbrated in the representation, he would suggest available lands being given free of cost to young men who had an aptitude for agriculture.

MR. T. MARIAPPA did not agree with the previous speaker. He cited the example of a number of western countries where educated men had been helped in similar directions and also by means of unemployment insurance. But unfortunately in Mysore, the Government had not done either of these things; nor had they provided sufficient industrial training to the young men so that they might earn their own bread in some way or the other. He was not very particular about Government giving any financial aid to young men for starting agricultural operations in the present case, though he certainly thought that giving some loan to each of them was desirable. There was no doubt that educated unemployed men stood in need of some special help at the present juncture. If such men continued to be unemployed, they were sure to become a source of danger to society at large. This was in fact the case with Bengal where almost all the participators in terrorist movements happened to be educated men. The fault, he thought, did not altogether lie with them, but with those who gave them education which has no aim or use. At present, the

bulk of the graduates who were being turned out of the Universities year after year had little chance of being absorbed in the services and the only alternative open to them was to swell the ranks of the legal profession which had already become overcrowded and unremunerative. Bearing in mind the truth that the State's prosperity lay in the contentment and useful employment of all its educated men, it was up to the Government to see that the request contained in the representation was acceded to. He was very sorry that Mr. S. C. Malliah had drawn attention to a very unfortunate experience. The Bhadra Colonisation scheme was too ideal and too large a scheme for a few young men to work out successfully. But the proposals now under discussion were certainly more practicable. For this reason, he strongly supported the representation.

MR. K. M. KRISHNAPPA GOWDA said that it was not a fault of the Government that thousands of young men spent away all the monies accumulated by their parents for getting University Degrees, and failed to secure employment. Nor was it the duty of the Government to provide industrial education to all of them. In fact, industrial education was a field to which graduates of arts rarely turned their attention. There was nothing to prevent these young men from discontinuing general education after the S.S.L.C. standard and utilising the available help from their parents for getting trained industrially. Apart from that, the number of educated unemployed was so large that it would not be possible for Government to give lands free of cost to all of them and enable them to get from those lands enough to live upon. But he had certainly no objection to giving lands in exceptional cases where the unemployed young men were so poor and helpless that they could not engage themselves in any other way.

MR. M. SUBBAIYA wished that some practical training in agriculture might be given to all the young men to whom Government might propose to give lands as suggested.

THE REVENUE COMMISSIONER observed that the question of providing employment to the educated unemployed had been long under consideration and that a committee which Government had appointed to consider the question had recommended that lands be given free of cost to such young men, the object being that a large number of educated men would do well to take to agriculture in the interests of themselves as well as of the country at large. But the Government could not, as in the case of the Bhadra Colony scheme, give financial and other facilities in addition to giving lands. They were however of opinion that the representation, with the reservation referred to by the Dewan, was one deserving of sympathetic consideration.

No. 13.—Grant of lands on *shraya* tenure.

Messrs. M. Siddalingappa Setty and Bagamane Deva Gowda, Chikmagalur Taluk; N. M. Sivalingappiah and K Thimme Gowda, Kadur Taluk; Chandiah, Tarikere Taluk; M. Thimmiah, Tarikere Municipality; D. V. Halappa, Birur Municipality; K. Malle Gowda, and M. Hutche Gowda, Mudgere Taluk; C. R. Nirvanappa Setty, Special Interests; M. S. Dyavegowda, Koppa Taluk; and K. Subba Rao, Sringeri Jahgir.

MR. BAGAMANE DEVA GOWDA prayed that the grant of lands on *shraya* tenure which was in vogue some years back may be ordered to be revived as there were large areas of uncultivated lands in the *Malnad*. He added that under the scheme formerly in vogue, the persons cultivating the land were given the option of growing any crops they liked, free of assessment. After a time, half assessment was being levied from them and thereafter the full assessment. The result of it was that large extent of *kharab* land had been brought under cultivation. If that system was adopted again, there was a chance of bringing under cultivation all the 500 or 600 acres which were now lying idle in the Jaggar valley. This would also solve the question of unemployment to some extent.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL enquired whether there were any people

to take up land if Government were prepared to grant it.

MR. BAGAMANE DEVA GOWDA replied that he was hopeful of many men coming forward if Government notified that they were prepared to grant lands and prescribed rules for the same.

THE REVENUE COMMISSIONER observed that the rules already in force provided for such grant

MR. BAGAMANE DEVA GOWDA suggested that lands should be granted outright and not sold by auction.

THE REVENUE COMMISSIONER replied that there would be no objection to giving lands in that way in suitable cases. In fact, the rules already provided that lands overgrown with lantana might be granted on *shraya* tenure without any assessment up to 10 years.

MR. BAGAMANE DEVA GOWDA then represented that sufficient funds be also granted to men taking up lands under the proposed scheme, if necessary taking sufficient securities for the same.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL observed that Government would sympathetically consider any applications that may be made in this behalf.

No. 14.—Abolition of irrigation cess.

Messrs. S. Nanje Gowda, Dodde Gowda and D. Siddiah Gowda, Gubbi Taluk; G. M. Chandrasekhar, Gubbi Municipality.

"It is prayed that the irrigation cess that is being levied on dry lands which have no water facilities may be ordered to be abolished."

No. 15.—Abolition of irrigation cess.

Messrs. Hoskoppa Krishna Rao, Koppa Taluk; K. Subba Rao, Sringeri Jahgir; M. Siddalingappa Setty, Chikmagalur Taluk.

" It is prayed that irrigation cess be abolished in all the taluks where it has been made a separate levy due to resurvey operations."

No. 16.—Abolition of irrigation cess on wet lands not benefited by Government irrigation works.

Messrs. U. Veerabasappa, Shikarpur Taluk; K. Manjanna, Minorities; Venkatagiri Rao, Melavarige, and Venkatagiriappa, Kanle, Sagar Taluk; H. Mallappa Gowda, Sorab Taluk; and V. V. Iyer, Shimoga Taluk.

" It is prayed that the irrigation cess levied on wet lands which have no source of water supply from any tank or channel and which are fed solely by rain water may be abolished."

MR. S. NANJE GOWDA prayed that the irrigation cess levied on dry lands which had no water facilities might be ordered to be abolished. He added that even to pay land revenue, the raiyats had to undergo very great difficulties which would be aggravated if the payment of irrigation cess was also insisted upon.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL did not believe that there was any grievance at all such as the representation mentioned.

MR. K. P. CHANNABASAVIAH asserted that there were any number of cases in which the irrigation cess or bagayet irrigation cess was being levied on dry lands.

THE DIRECTOR OF LAND RECORDS, SURVEY AND SETTLEMENT, replied that where there was dry cultivation not dependant upon Government tanks, he would see that no cess was recovered in the case of dry lands.

No. 17.—Conversion of sub-taluks into taluks.

Mr. H. Sulemankhan, Kumsi Sub-Taluk.

MR. H. SULEMANKHAN prayed that all sub-taluks in the State be converted into taluks and treasuries be opened to facilitate transactions. In this connection, he referred to the deputation from the Kumsi Sub-Taluk which had waited on the authorities concerned three times to urge the necessity of Government sanctioning the proposal. Being a sub-taluk, Kumsi did not provide sufficient police protection to the people. Owing to the low economic condition of the raiyats they could not afford the expense of travelling to the taluk treasury every time they wanted to make remittances.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL replied that it was the policy of Government to abolish all sub-taluks and

convert them into pucca taluks, but that this being a question of funds, it could be given effect to only gradually.

MR. SULEMANKHAN observed that for the past several years the same reply was being given by the Government.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL explained that the delay was due to want of funds. He added that owing to the provision of bus services in recent years, the raiyats did not have all the difficulties and inconveniences of travelling to taluk head quarters which they had to face formerly.

No. 18.—Conversion of Turuvekere Sub-Taluk into a pucca taluk.

Mr. K. H. Rame Gowda, Turuvekere Sub-Taluk.

MR. K. H. RAME GOWDA prayed that the Turuvekere Sub-Taluk may be ordered to be made into a pucca taluk early.

THE DEWAN observed that the question of converting as many sub-taluks as possible into pucca taluks would be considered as soon as the finances of the State improved.

No. 19.—Formation of a sub-taluk with headquarters at French-Rocks.

Messrs. Gurubasappa, K. C. Subbanna and K. V. Veeranna, Chamarajanagar Taluk; H. Hombe Gowda and N. Veeraraje Urs, T.-Narsipur Taluk; H. K. Madiah, Malvalli Taluk; T. M. Kapanaiya Gowda and K. M. Krishnappa Gowda, Nagamangala Taluk; T. Mariappa, Mysore City Municipality; M. C. Linge Gowda, Maddur Taluk; B. Chamaiya, Seringapatam Taluk; M. A. Khureishi, Minorities; B. Siddalinga Setty, Special Interests; Basappa and Kongalappa, Gundlupet Taluk; Sannamallappa, Yelandur Jahgir; and Sivananjegowda, Mysore Taluk.

MR. GURUBASAPPA represented that as Seringapatam Taluk was a very big one, there was scope for the formation of a sub-taluk at French-Rocks. As a result of the extension of irrigation under the Irwin Canal, French-Rocks was fast growing in importance. If this was converted into a sub-taluk, people from Nagamangala and other surrounding places would be helped very much.

MR. M. SUBBAIYA opposed the representation on the ground that Seringapatam was more centrally situated than French-Rocks.

MR. S. C. MALLIAH, who supported the representation, pointed out that the previous speaker had opposed it under a misapprehension that if it was accepted, the importance of Seringapatam would suffer. The mover had not suggested the transfer of the taluk headquarter to French-Rocks; Seringapatam would continue to be the taluk headquarter. The representation only wanted that French-Rocks should become a sub-taluk which it once was. As matters stood, the raiyats from several hoblis had to go all the way to the taluk treasury to make remittances. If French-Rocks was raised to the status of a sub-taluk, the inconvenience felt by the people could be removed.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL said that a sub-taluk at French-Rocks was necessary and that the question would be considered.

No. 20.—Abolition of night kaval duty in villages.

Mr. U. Veerabasappa, Shikarpur Taluk.

MR. U. VEERABASAPPA prayed that the system of night kaval duty in villages be abolished as the raiyats found it inconvenient to attend to it after all their hard day's work on their fields. Thanks to the benefits of good Government, he said, police protection was available even in the villages and the system of night kaval duty by villagers was no longer necessary.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL pointed out that the system was in existence from time immemorial and no great inconvenience had resulted from it to anybody. It would be in the interests of the safety of the villagers themselves not to put an end to it.

MR. U. VEERABASAPPA contended that when this system was first inaugurated, the joint family system was very much in vogue and so each family could afford to spare a hand for road patrol duty whenever necessary. But now

the average strength of a family had gone down very much and no spare hand was available to take up such additional duties. Again, the number of theft and burglary cases, especially in the past, was very large; but now they had materially gone down in all parts of the State. For both these reasons, a departure from the time-honoured practice was urgently called for, as a matter of personal convenience of each and every village family.

MR. B. N. BORANNA GOWDA represented that experience had shown that there was more evil than good resulting from the night kaval duty. Owing to the existence of factions in villages, this rule gave scope for the patel to harass all those who belonged to other parties or whom he did not like by filing complaints against them.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL enquired if the credit for this did not go to the system of night kavals.

THE MEMBER replied in the negative and said that a few cases of thefts might happen here and there in the villages just as in the cities and even in the headquarters of the Government. He was sorry that the system under reference had helped only in promoting factious feelings in the villages.

MR. MANJANNA was of opinion that the existing system should continue, as the village police could not tackle the problem by themselves. After all, the services of each villager would be required only once or twice in a year, which he ought not to grudge in the interests of the village as a whole.

MR. P. BASAVE GOWDA remarked that this system merely gave undue importance to the patels but no benefit to the people.

THE DEWAN pointed out that this was a longstanding practice, good in its own way, and that though there might be some inconvenience to some people occasionally, it would be worthwhile keeping it up.

Several members complained that the system could never work satisfactorily as the patels often misused their powers of enforcing night kaval duty.

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE explained that this system had been ordered in the interests of the villages and that if the villagers themselves did not want it, the Police Department would have no objection to abolish it. But he cautioned the members against condemning it hastily, as it might not be possible to revive it if once it was done away with. There was also the consideration that the prospect of adding to the police force was very remote.

MR. N. SIDDALINGIAH DEVARU and others said that, if found necessary, the village panchayets might by themselves revive the system.

Thereupon, the DEWAN said that the question of abolition or retention of the existing practice would be left to be decided by a clear majority of the villagers concerned.

MR. L. VEMA REDDY and others requested that as patels, as a class, might not give effect to the resolution in favour of abolition, instructions might be issued in the matter officially and notified in the gazette.

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE said that the suggestion would be considered. But he informed the House that if the option given to the villages should lead to unsatisfactory results, then Government would have to revive the existing compulsory system.

No. 21.—Night kavals and maintenance work of tanks.

Messrs. K. P. Channabasaviah and S. Sorappa, Tiptur Taluk; and Sheik Mohadin Sab, Sira Municipality.

MR. K. P. CHANNABASAVIAH explained that in the Madras Presidency not only were the villagers relieved of the night watch duty, which had since been entrusted to thalwars but also of tank maintenance work. He prayed that similar facilities be afforded to the raiyats in this State also.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL replied that it would not be feasible to do away with the raiyats' obligation to do periodical jungle clearing and other maintenance works of tanks and that the existing system should continue.

No. 22.—*Miras* to *totis* and *talaris*.

Mr. Sanikam Krishnappa, Chitaldrug Taluk.

MR. SANIKAM KRISHNAPPA represented that the rule that *miras* to *totis* and *talaris* should be given at the rate of three seers per acre was working as a hardship on the raiyats. He prayed that, in lieu of *miras* in kind, six pies per rupee of assessment be levied and cash payment made to the *totis* and *talaris* for their services.

Several members expressed themselves against the proposal as being unfair.

THE DEWAN said that the alteration proposed was not feasible and that the existing system might continue.

No. 23.—Dispensing with *neersardi* applications each year up to five years.

Mr. Donde Gowda, Hassan Taluk.

MR. DONDE GOWDA represented that it was laid down that every raiyat who wished to have water for cultivation had to give applications every year for the purpose for five years. This was causing hardship to raiyats who were mostly poor and illiterate. If timely applications were not made owing to the raiyats' ignorance, heavy fines and double and treble the water rates were imposed, thereby ruining many a poor raiyat. In order to obviate this difficulty, he prayed that every application be assumed to have been made for five years and complete records made therefor, so that instead of double water rate, dry assessment and single water rate might be levied.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL explained that there were specific rules in the Land Revenue Code in the matter of *hangami* (temporary) water rate. The application for supply of water in such cases must be renewed from year to year so as to enable the local authorities to satisfy themselves that water in the tank was adequate to admit of supply to the applicant without prejudice to the interests of the permanent *atchkatdars*. If the supply was adequate for five consecutive years, then it might be assumed there would be no difficulty in giving permission permanently.

Double water rate had been prescribed for temporary *neersardi* because in such cases the raiyats took to such cultivation only in years of plentiful water supply and paid water rate for those years, whereas the permanent *atchkatdar* would be paying wet assessment throughout—in years of drought as well as in years of plentiful rain-fall. There was, besides, the consideration that the temporary cultivator would not share, equally with the *atchkatdars*, the responsibility of maintaining the tanks and clearing silt from the channel.

Several complaints were being received every year that owing to the silting up of tanks, the *atchkats* should be reduced. Such being the case, it was necessary in the case of many tanks to discourage the extension of the *atchkats*.

On the question of fines, the FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL explained that they would be levied only in cases where cultivation had been undertaken without previous permission. In the interests of the permanent landholders, it was very necessary that that rule should be very stringent.

MR. G. KANCHAPPA represented that near Borankanve tank there were 200 to 300 acres of dry land fit to be converted into wet. The raiyats carrying on temporary cultivation had got tired of paying double water rate. Any amount of petitioning to the Revenue Department had failed to elicit a response. He prayed that early orders might be issued sanctioning the permanent conversion of the lands into wet.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL promised to enquire into the matter, and pass necessary orders as there was plenty of water in that tank.

THE DEWAN said that separate arrangements were being made to dispose of lands under the Borankanve tank at cheap rates, so that cocoanut, sugarcane and plantain cultivation might be carried on in the area as there was plenty of water available. It might also be possible, he thought, to give special encouragement to the raiyats in that locality. He added that the Revenue Commissioner himself would visit the spot and make necessary arrangements therefor.

MR. K. RAMANNA suggested that at least in places where water was

available in plenty, only single water rate be charged and not double as was being done.

THE REVENUE COMMISSIONER replied that that was the rule and that it could not be relaxed in respect of *hangami* wet rates. If it was relaxed, the person carrying on temporary cultivation would gain undue advantage over the permanent landholders who went on paying wet assessment year after year, whether they were able to raise wet crops or not. So it was the policy of Government that double water rate should be levied in respect of *hangami* cultivation. In the case of all old tanks, the available water might not be enough for the existing *atchkat* so that the revenue authorities should think twice before giving permission for additional wet cultivation even on a temporary basis.

At this stage several members pressed for the retention of the existing rule so as to protect the interests of the permanent *atchkatdars*.

Thereupon the DEWAN said that it would not be possible to reduce the water rate in the case of temporary tenures.

No. 24.—Control over Arsikere Tank.

Mr. M. R. Puttaswamiah, Ariskere Taluk.

MR. M. R. PUTTASWAMIAH represented that the control over Arsikere tank was not efficient and that the water was being wasted. The landholders themselves were opening and shutting the sluices and wasting water. There was no proper distribution of water to the lands at a distance. He therefore prayed that Government might construct *nalas* and distributary channels from the tank and arrange for the proper distribution and better control of the tank.

THE CHIEF ENGINEER explained that it was a fact that water was being wasted by the landholders under this tank as in several other cases in the State, and that it was necessary to regulate the supply by means of proper distributaries and channels. It would be advantageous to adopt the block system of irrigation under the Arsikere tank as the water available was not adequate to irrigate all the lands comprising the *atchkat*, due to silting and evaporation. He suggested that the control over this irrigation could with advantage be transferred to the Irrigation Panchayets which could be constituted. He had no doubt that things would improve if the control over this tank was transferred from the Revenue to the Public Works Department, and he promised to have the matter investigated early.

ANOTHER MEMBER requested that the Agricultural Department also might give necessary advice to the raiyats, with reference to the quantity of water available in each particular year, as to the crops that could be grown there with profit.

MR. S. SARABHANNA suggested that the sluices (*thoobu*) be provided with locks so as to prevent wastage of water.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL agreed with the above suggestion.

No. 25. Reduction of special fine or the recovery of only 25 years' assessment for conversion of agricultural land into non-agricultural purposes.

Messrs. B. L. Byanna, Bangalore City Municipality; B. M. Munisamappa, Bangalore Taluk; and S. Munivenkatappa, Minorities.

On behalf of the movers, MR. W. H. HANUMANTHAPPA represented that whenever a landlord or owner of a land desired to convert his agricultural land into building sites, the revenue authorities were not only levying special fines varying from Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,000 per site but were also recovering in addition 25 years' land assessment in the Bangalore City Municipality. As this would work as a very great hardship on the prospective house builders, he requested that either the special fine at a reduced rate or 25 years' assessment be recovered. In the Civil and Military Station, Bangalore, such conversion was being allowed on payment of 25 years' assessment. He pleaded that the same procedure might be adopted in Bangalore City also, as otherwise it would not be possible for the people to procure sites for house building purposes.

MR. N. G. SANJEEVIAH did not believe that any concession was called for in the case of big cities where house construction had become a commercial proposition and that the representation should have reference only to towns and villages. He suggested that in order to encourage the construction of new houses in villages, necessary facilities should be created by the authorities by reducing both the assessment and the special fine.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL explained that it was the object of Government that agricultural land should be used only for agricultural purposes, and this included the construction of farm houses on such land. Under the Land Revenue Code any one using an agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes was liable to the payment of a fine in addition to any assessment leviable under Section 48 of the Code. This was intended to reimburse the Government for the loss of land revenue. Government did not consider that the 25 years' assessment fixed for such conversions in villages and the special fine of Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,000 in the case of cities were too high. Neither did it work as a hardship on the villagers.

No. 100.—Confining morning session to boys and the afternoon session for girls in villages where there are only boys' schools at present.

Sri K. D. Rukminiamma, Special Interests.

SRI K. D. RUKMINIAMMA prayed that in all villages where there were at present only boys' schools, the morning session might be confined to boys and the afternoon session for girls so that boys and girls might become literate at the same time. This arrangement would not entail any additional cost to the Government. She added that by means of an interpellation she had obtained from Government the information that out of 2,709 villages in the Mysore District only 57 villages had primary schools for girls and 718 villages had primary schools for boys. In either case the percentage was far from satisfactory and it was necessary to raise it particularly in the case of girls' schools. This necessity would become more apparent when it was remembered that the percentage of literacy in Mysore was very much lower than that in several Indian States though the principle of compulsory education for boys and girls had always been recognized and re-iterated by the Government. The Mysore State Women's Conference had examined the question of the necessity for educational expansion with due regard to the present financial position of the Government and had conducted certain experiments in some villages with good results. In Varuna Village in the Mysore District and Yedur Village in the Bangalore District, they had started primary schools which admitted both boys and girls. The Conference had also prepared a five-year plan by which they hoped it would be possible to introduce primary education in all the villages of the State within 5 years. The success that had attended the two experiments already tried gave them the hope that if the scheme was worked out in full, it would be possible to give effect to the long pending compulsory scheme without prohibitive cost. The financial position of the Conference was unfortunately such as not to enable the Conference itself to give full effect to the scheme. She therefore appealed to the Government to give full opportunity to the scheme. She would no doubt be glad if boys and girls could be admitted for receiving co-education in all the schools: but she was afraid that in many cases that might result in over-crowding which was educationally not sound. She therefore proposed that wherever the accommodation and the equipment available did not make it possible to give co-education to all the forthcoming boys and girls, classes might be held only in the mornings for boys and only in the afternoons for girls. She had been definitely informed on enquiry that boys were generally very irregular in attendance at school in the afternoons. So that they would not stand to lose by being made to attend school only in the mornings. At the same time, the scheme would result in substantially

raising the percentage of girls attending school at least to the level of boys at school.

MR. J. MAHOMED IMAM supported the representation. He said that though Government had often expressed sympathy for expansion of girls' education, for various reasons they had not been able to give effect to their policy. It was expected that with the transfer of the responsibility for primary education to local bodies, it might be possible to show better progress in the rural areas; but financially the local bodies themselves were in no better position than the Government. Therefore the educational progress of both boys and girls had remained almost stationary. Mrs. Rukmini-amma's scheme would make it possible to spread education among both boys and girls and raise the percentage of girls' education to the level of boys' education. He therefore appealed to the Government to try the experiment at least in select places.

THE SECOND MEMBER OF COUNCIL enquired whether the scheme would not involve a large additional expenditure, particularly on account of extra teachers.

MR. MAHOMED IMAM did not think so and said that, if at all, a small expenditure under equipment might become necessary.

MESSRS. B. N. BORANNA GOWDA and H. K. MADIAH opposed the representation on principle, *viz.*, that it would be wrong to segregate either the boys or the girls at a tender age. They thought that if other things permitted, it would be better to amalgamate the existing girls' schools with boys' schools and utilise the funds thereby saved for opening more combined schools. Several village panchayets had sent up resolutions advocating such amalgamations.

MR. B. S. PUTTASWAMY pointed out that at present primary education course was one of four years and that the expenditure incurred on account of it by the Government was as much as Rs. 25 lakhs. It was seen that most of the boys and girls failed to take advantage of the middle school education after completing the primary education course. From that point of view there could be no difference of opinion that the bulk of expenditure now incurred on primary education was ultimately going to waste. With a view to improve the position, the question of increasing the primary school course to six years had already been decided upon, it being agreed that effect be given to it as soon as funds permitted. At such a time, it would be very undesirable to adopt the suggestion under discussion. As against the present practice of boys and girls attending school both in the morning and in the afternoon, the proposal was that boys might attend only in the mornings and girls only in the afternoons. In other words, this would amount to cutting down the total length of the course to one of two years from four years when the proposal was to raise it to six years.

Proceeding, he said that in a number of cases there were several types of schools of the primary grade in one and the same place, *e.g.*, schools for Adikarnataka boys, Adikarnataka girls, General boys, General girls, Urdu boys and Urdu girls; in addition, there were also middle schools and night schools of various types. If all these had to be amalgamated and standardised, the only way appeared to be to amalgamate all schools of one and the same grade and kind. If the proposal now under discussion was adopted, such a scheme would become well nigh impossible. The speaker agreed with some of the previous speakers that segregation of girls in the primary school stage was educationally a very unsound principle. For these reasons, he was sorry to have to oppose the representation.

MR. K. CHENGALARAYA REDDY fully endorsed the views expressed by Mr. B. S. Puttaswamy and added that the representation though laudable in its motive, would only have the effect of dislocating the existing scheme without achieving its underlying object.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION admitted that the provision for the education of girls was quite inadequate and that the percentage of their literacy required to be raised. But that object

could not be achieved in the manner suggested. The number of girls attending girls' schools was 36,000 and the number attending boys' schools, 28,000. This showed that in many villages the parents had no objection to send their girls to boys' schools. In the circumstances there was no necessity to have separate classes for boys and girls. Secondly, for imparting instruction to boys and girls separately, one and the same set of teachers would not suffice. The appointment of extra teachers would become necessary if that plan were to be tried. But to ask boys to attend school only in the mornings and girls only in the afternoons would mean that the course of education in either case, as was rightly pointed out by some of the speakers, would be curtailed by one half. This would be very undesirable, educationally. If, therefore, the number of girls attending schools was not as much as to need separate schools with separate staff and equipment, there would be no necessity to think of such an experiment. For the present, the girls might continue to attend boys' schools where separate schools did not exist for them. If, however, in any particular case this became impossible on account of numbers, then the question of re-arranging work separately for boys and for girls in mornings and the afternoons respectively would arise, but this would be done for classes and not for boys and girls respectively. But so far, cases of that kind had not arisen.

For these reasons, he regretted that it was not possible to accept the proposal.

No. 94.—Extension of the maternity benefits to all women labourers in the State.

Mrs. Kamalamma H. Dasappa, Special Interests.

MRS. KAMALAMMA H. DASAPPA prayed that the maternity benefit scheme now in force in respect of Government concerns might be extended to all women labourers in the State.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL observed that the question of extending the application of the provisions of the Factory Regulation regarding maternity benefits to the women labourers in the non-Government factories in the State was one beset with many practical difficulties. Even in British Indian provinces, such a thing had not been done in all places. The Royal Commission on Labour had made certain recommendations in this respect and several administrations were still considering them. The Government of Mysore were also similarly considering these recommendations and it might be advisable to wait and see what measures Government might find possible to take to achieve the object of the representation.

MR. T. RAMACHANDRA requested that the maternity benefit scheme should be made applicable to the Harijan women who were in the various municipalities as sweepers and scavengers. This had been done in many places in British India.

THE SECOND MEMBER OF COUNCIL said that that was a matter on which the municipalities would have to be consulted.

MR. RAMACHANDRA then suggested that Government might issue circular instructions to the several municipalities on the advisability of extending the maternity benefit scheme to all their Harijan women employees.

MR. K. T. BHASHYAM AIYANGAR also pleaded for urgent action on the lines suggested in the representation.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL observed that that was a matter on which the factory owners would have to be consulted first because they were the paymasters, lest any compulsion that Government might bring to bear upon them in such matters might result in the women labourers being turned out of employment. Therefore Government had to proceed cautiously in the matter.

MRS. KAMALAMMA DASAPPA thought the factories were not likely to take up such an attitude because the wages paid to women were only half of those paid to men labourers. And it would be in their own interests to continue to employ women labourers even with all the concessions proposed.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL hoped that the factory owners would

see the reasonableness of the request contained in the representation.

At this stage, the Assembly rose for lunch and met again at 3-30 p.m.

As promised by the Dewan early on the second day of the Session, Mr. V. VENKATAPPA was permitted to move as a representation the adjournment motion of which he and some some others had given notice, *viz.*,

" to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, namely, the distress caused to raiyats by the failure of timely rains and to consider measures of suitable reliefs to ease the situation in time."

In moving it, he said that the object in raising a debate on this question was prominently to bring to the notice of the Government the plight in which the agriculturists of the State found themselves as a result of the withholding of rains and the failure of crops, and definitely to suggest several measures of relief that seemed to them urgently called for to tide over the situation. The extent to which the agriculturists were suffering, particularly during the current year, had already been brought to notice in connection with representations for remission of land revenue. In spite of the discussions that had taken place in that connection, he had still a suspicion that even though the Government were not unaware of the miserable condition of the raiyat, yet in view of the recent showers in several parts of the State, they might be under the impression that conditions had since changed for the better. It was to press upon the attention of the Government that this was really not the case that this subject was proposed for discussion in the House. The recent showers, if at all, had only helped to bring a small supply of water to tanks, enough only for a week or two, and provide for the cattle fodder for just a few days. But the rains certainly were not adequate enough to improve the agricultural conditions. The rains having withheld persistently so far, the general position was not likely to improve even a bit, even if the coming weeks should witness further rains. Under such circumstances, the speaker hoped that there would be no difference of opinion whatever about the necessity for a definite and immediate action on the part of the Government in the direction of providing adequate relief throughout the State. He had also another fear that the present improvement in the general price level might lead the Government to think that the prospect of the raiyat for the immediate future was going to be brightened on that account. But he was sure that this was not going to be so, because the rise in prices was due not to any sudden improvement in the general economic position of the country but to the scarcity of food grains, and so, except in a few rare cases, the agriculturist was not going to derive any benefit from such rise. This point had been rightly stressed by " The Hindu " in its editorial columns of the 13th October 1934, as follows:—

" Our contemporary (*The Statesman*) thinks that the fear of an approaching famine, which the exodus betrays, is premature, and draws attention to the fact that though the S. W. monsoon has failed, the North-East is yet to come and there is no reason to despair. We would fain hope so; at the same time we must point out that the scare is there and that is evidently responsible for the rise in prices. An increase that is due to such adventitious circumstances is not likely to be maintained for long. Nor must it be forgotten that the stock of paddy from last year's harvest—which in some of the biggest centres of production was decidedly poor—is very low, that again being one of the principal causes of this sudden rise in prices. The increased price is, therefore, hardly likely to benefit the raiyat who had perforce to sell what little surplus he had at the time of kist collection when prices were very low. These important facts must be borne in mind, so that false conclusions may not be drawn from what seems to be a temporary and somewhat illusory rise in prices. The Government, in suspending collection of a small part of the land revenue dues this year, stated that the question whether it should be remitted altogether would be considered on the basis of the seasonal report submitted by the Collectors of districts later in the year. We have little doubt that the reports, when they are received by the Government, will show that the economic condition of the agriculturist has in no way improved. To make an inference to the contrary from the isolated fact that within the past week or two some rise in prices has been reported, would be shown to be altogether unwarranted if all the facts of the case are considered."

Thus, the member was strongly of opinion that the time had arrived for the

Government to consider what special concessions were called for to combat the present situation. To sum up the agriculturist's position, on the one hand, all his movables had been disposed of in the past for meeting the revenue and other demands and on the other he had despite his poverty somehow to manage to meet the cost of maintenance of himself and his family. On account of his extreme poverty, even bare subsistence had become a problem for him and he had begun to despair of himself. There was thus no chance of his being able to meet the revenue demand within the coming few months and in the speaker's opinion, remission of land revenue had become inevitable. No doubt the rules already in force enabled the Government to grant remissions in the case of wet assessment, but that was not the case so far as dry assessment was concerned; all that could be done was to suspend collections. But the number of agriculturists paying dry assessment was very much larger than those paying wet assessment, and the situation had affected the former no less than the latter. It therefore stood to reason that in the matter of concessions, at least for the next two or three years the Government dispensed with all differentiations as between the one and the other; in the case of both dry and wet assessment, they should prepare themselves from now to grant remissions, partly or wholly, wherever the reports from local officers showed that crops had failed. Speaking on this aspect of the question, he was tempted to assert that more often than not subordinate officials had a tendency to underestimate the difficulties of the agriculturists and to show crop returns as being higher than they actually were. Specific instances of such action had been brought to the notice of the Revenue Commissioner in the past and Government also were quite aware of them. The speaker therefore appealed to the Government to institute special inquiries throughout the State with regard to crop returns and show the utmost possible concessions in all cases in the matter of land revenue collections.

Continuing, he said that he was aware that this was not the first occasion when the minds of agriculturists had been disturbed on account of famine conditions. There were many such instances in the past and the Government no doubt had undertaken suitable relief works. But the position at present was more acute, and so the relief measures to be undertaken to overcome it were necessarily to be on a larger scale. That alone could provide sufficient labour for all the people in need of it. As a second measure of relief, he said that the Government should sanction small special loans, free of interest, to such of the agriculturists as could not get credit elsewhere. But, in this connection, it was necessary for the Government to issue specific instructions to local subordinates to the effect that in view of the present unprecedented situation, security should not be insisted upon for the grant of such loans. The third point that he would suggest in the same connection was that these special loans had better be distributed in the shape of fodder and foodstuffs than in cash, since he thought that the agriculturists were not going to be benefited by the latter arrangement because, on the one hand, for obvious reasons, the full amount of loans would not actually reach their hands and on the other, even the amounts actually received would be taken away by the ever-watchful creditors.

He also suggested that the loans given be recovered in kind in easy instalments when the borrowers were able to raise sufficient crops on their lands.

As regards fodder supplies, he suggested that arrangements should be made by Government for opening fodder depots at all convenient places so that the raiyats might be able to get sufficient quantities. Even in this connection he suggested that the fodder supplies be made on credit, recoveries being made when conditions returned to normal. With regard to transport facilities, he proposed that the Government should distribute

fodder to a number of centres, if necessary engaging special lorries in addition to what they themselves owned.

In the course of pleading for the inauguration of special steps with a view to help the agriculturists, the speaker was reminded of the fact that the benefit of even the existing orders was often denied to the agriculturists. For example, it had come to his notice that in a large number of cases the Record of Rights fees were being levied from the agriculturists at the original rate of Rs. 2 per *hisse* instead of at the reduced rate of Rs. 1-8-0. He requested the Government to see that in all such cases the spirit of the orders was correctly understood and given effect to by local officials. He added that he would even go further and suggest that the recovery of the Record of Rights fees be deferred for two or three years as a special case in view of the abnormal conditions already referred to.

In conclusion, he referred to the special committee appointed by the Government for submitting to them proposals for considering in what respects special help could be extended to the agriculturists—whose report was expected to be submitted shortly—and requested the Government to suggest to the committee that its recommendations might be made with due regard to the existing agricultural conditions which were far worse than those prevailing at the time the committee was constituted. He also requested the Government to suggest to the other special committee that had been appointed to suggest in what respects the Agriculturists' Relief Regulation required to be amended, that their recommendations might be made in such a way as to benefit indebted agriculturists and not their creditors.

MR. J. MAHOMED IMAM in supporting the representation said that there was universal agreement on the question that the raiyat at the present time needed all the special relief that Government could possibly extend. Speaking of the Chitaldrug District in particular, he said that the failure of crops in that district was not confined to the previous or the current year only. During the past two years, the agriculturists had suffered losses on account of extraordinarily heavy rains. During the current year crops had failed on account of withholding of rains. Thus, the agriculturists there stood in need of greater relief than those in other districts. The difficulties of those agriculturists were aggravated on account of scarcity of tanks in the district and also on account of the fact that even among them many had remained in a state of utter disrepair. Schemes for their restoration were also pending for long and it would be desirable for the Government to take up all of them in order to extend the special relief that agriculturists of the district needed.

Proceeding, he suggested that in view of fodder scarcity in the district, the levy of *hulbanni* for the grazing of cattle in State forests be removed.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL replied that orders had already been passed on the lines suggested.

MR. IMAM brought to notice that they were not being given effect to and that the district officers should therefore be instructed to give effect to them.

In conclusion, he requested that land revenue be remitted in all deserving cases either partly or wholly according to the needs of each case.

MR. HOSKOPPA KRISHNA RAO, in further supporting the representation, said that there was every reason to apprehend that the State was bound to face a most terrible famine within the coming two or three years and that it was necessary for the Government therefore to prepare definite programmes of relief measures to be undertaken. And unless the Government set themselves to this task immediately, it was feared that the agriculturists would be thrown into utter confusion and despair. They were already passing through bad years and finding themselves unable to pay land revenue, repay debts and meet the cost of maintenance of themselves and their dependants; their only hope lay in the special relief measures that the Government might undertake on the basis that famine

had actually set in in all parts of the State He also suggested that all local boards should be asked to undertake a programme of relief works so that a large number of wage-earners in quest of labour and also others unemployed might find some means of livelihood. Special subsistence loans in kind should also be granted to poor raiyats, as suggested by the mover. He agreed with the previous speaker that free grazing of cattle in State forests must be permitted without any sort of restriction whatsoever. He repeated the oft-represented fact that land revenue which was already weighing heavily upon the raiyat was going to cause in the next two or three years greater hardship than ever before in view of the fall in prices, and for this reason he said that an all-round reduction of land revenue should necessarily form part of the general question of famine relief operations. In conclusion he appealed to the Government to see things in their true perspective, to feel the pulse of the masses correctly, to sympathise with their sufferings fully and to do their duty by them justly. He observed that the present was really a testing period for the Administration and, faced as they were with financial problems, they should realise that at this critical juncture the demands of the people for the organization of large scale relief measures in every part of the State could not be denied to them on any ground. As regards ways and means, they were at perfect liberty to spend if necessary all the money that stood at the credit of the famine relief fund at the present time.

MR. K. CHENGALARAYA REDDY, in further supporting the representation, requested the Government to view it with sympathy and imagination. The position of the raiyat for a few years past was bad enough, but his present position was rendered still worse on account of failure of crops coupled with scarcity of money. The agriculturist was thus in need of a large amount of relief and it was the duty of the Government to provide it in full. But the Government might think that they had done their duty by him because they had appointed a special committee to recommend relief to agriculturists in view of the low level of prices prevailing for some time past. But as a matter of fact, the action taken so far was not enough, because at the time the committee was appointed and its terms of reference drafted, there was not the additional anxiety that was subsequently caused by the total failure of rains. If, therefore, the committee should do full justice to the agriculturist, it was necessary for the Government to enlarge the terms of reference so as to enable it to view the question of relief not only from the point of view of the price level but also from that of the failure of rains.

In conclusion the speaker suggested that conditions were really such that in a number of cases full remission was called for and should be granted in respect of dry as well as wet assessment even though the rules did not provide for remission in the former case. And with regard to relief works, he suggested that without insisting on the raiyats' contribution, the Government must as a very special case bear the entire financial responsibility for putting the several schemes into execution.

MR. T. ABDUL NABI KHAN also spoke in favour of the representation. He said that conditions in the Tumkur District were altogether disquieting and that in a number of cases people were starving. Persons who were unemployed and who had no means of living were in search of labour, but this was not available. Whereas in other districts tanks had received some supply as a result of recent showers, not even a few of the tanks in the Tumkur District had derived any benefit from those showers. Any programme of relief works that might be prepared by Government should therefore have special reference to the Tumkur District.

THE MEMBER also suggested that food-control operations be undertaken so that foodstuffs grown within the State might not go out of it.

MR. PUTTASWAMI GOWDA also lent support to the representation under discussion.

In replying to the discussions, the REVENUE COMMISSIONER observed that there was nothing to warrant the apprehension expressed by the mover of the representation that either the recent showers or the rise in prices of foodstuffs had led Government to believe that the agricultural and economic situation of the country had been considerably eased. Every one knew that prices had recently risen. But whether they would remain stationary at the same level or would go down in future was more than any one could say. Government also noted that the disappearance of one problem of past years, *viz.*, the situation caused by low prices, was unfortunately followed immediately by another problem, namely the problem of failure of rains and scarcity of produce. It was perhaps natural for agriculturists to say that the great famine of 60 years ago might possibly repeat itself within the next few years. Government however did not think that such an apprehension was altogether warranted. In the Assembly itself while some thought that the raiyats would realise during the current year only two annas crop, others thought that it might go up to 5 or 6 annas, and possibly there might be others who were expecting a still better return. The harvest prospects necessarily varied in different tracts; in some tracts such as those under channels, the crops were likely to be quite satisfactory. Under such circumstances, it would be an exaggeration to say that there was going to be a total failure of crops all over the State.

THE REVENUE COMMISSIONER conceded that conditions in particular tracts were not altogether encouraging and possibly, in such cases at any rate, it might become necessary in future for Government to organise relief. If such a situation arose, no one need have any fear that Government might not be able to cope with it. The steps to be taken in such a contingency had been precisely laid down in Government orders, and every responsible official knew what he had to do if such a position arose during the coming months. In fact, everything had been defined so clearly that relief works could be started within a few days.

With reference to the remark made by a certain member that Government should not attach much value to the reports of subordinate executive officials regarding the outturn of crops because such officials somehow or other never made reliable reports, the Revenue Commissioner was inclined to differ from such a view. There was no reason why any official should misrepresent facts in a matter wherein he could have no sort of personal interest. Government were in touch with the situation and if it became necessary to start relief works at any time, Government would certainly not hesitate to undertake them.

As already stated Government had defined the works that might be undertaken as part of relief programme. They had in addition also prescribed the order in which particular kinds of work should be preferred. For example, tank maintenance works should have first preference, restoration works would come next and so on. In giving effect to this policy of affording relief, Government could in future make use of the additional facility created by the Village Panchayets Regulation. All the panchayets had their own programmes of works. Many of these works were awaiting execution, and it would be easy, in case famine really broke out, for Government to enlist the co-operation of the concerned panchayets and start village works as part of famine relief operations.

MR. G. KANCHAPPA interrupting observed that the mere existence of programmes of work and of executive staff was not enough, because, even under special circumstances, the Amildars might not permit of works being taken up unless specific sanction was received in advance.

THE REVENUE COMMISSIONER replied that that would not be the case if circumstances were really extraordinary. There had been a number of instances in the past where local officers had permitted execution of works in anticipation of orders and also placed with the chairmen of village panchayets sufficient advances of money for the purpose.

He found that District Board Presi-

dents were most willing and ready to co-operate with Government in the matter of affording work to those in quest of labour.

As regards the suggestion of some of the previous speakers that loans would have to be given to villagers on a large scale and without insisting upon security, the REVENUE COMMISSIONER regretted that it was not feasible. The provision in respect of security would have to continue and Government would also have to make sure that in every case the loan would be utilised for the purpose for which it was granted.

Similarly, it would be difficult for Government to run grain and fodder depots. If however village panchayets were prepared to open them, Government, he hoped, would be perfectly willing to assist.

A suggestion had been made that State forests might be thrown open for grazing purposes without any restrictions. Government had issued needful instructions in the matter already. Special arrangements had also been made for the sale to agriculturists of hay from the stacks held by the Hesaraghatta Military Grass Farm.

Some of the previous speakers had suggested that the collections of Record of Rights fees should be suspended. This question was engaging the attention of the special committee that had been constituted for recommending special relief to agriculturists. And even apart from the committee, the matter has been receiving consideration. He had just received orders of Government to the effect that the recovery of such fees might be postponed for one year in the Nagamangala Taluk.

The question of debt conciliation was referred to in the course of discussions. It was a large question on which it was not easy to make an off-hand statement. The special committee referred to above had taken up this question and was collecting information with a view to ascertain what action was called for in the case of Mysore. It was hoped that in this and other respects, members would find that the committee's recommendations would be made with a due sense of responsibility and sympathy for the raiyat.

One other suggestion that had been made in the course of discussions was that the terms of reference of the special committee should be so enlarged as to include within their field of enquiry the situation caused by the failure of rains. This suggestion, he noted, was made in view of the fact that the agricultural conditions had materially altered subsequent to the appointment of that committee. But he feared that if a thorough enquiry into the present agricultural conditions had also to be conducted by the committee, that in itself would become an elaborate item of work and the submission of the recommendations of the committee would be unnecessarily delayed. He was, however, in a position to assure the House that even without the proposed enlargement of the terms of reference the committee was quite at liberty to frame its recommendations with due regard to the present position of the agriculturist.

With regard to the request for suspension or remission of assessment, he thought it would be premature to say how exactly the agriculturists in various parts of the State would find themselves at the time of harvest and so it was not possible for Government to consider any specific measure of relief in this respect. The department would certainly review the position at that time and make all reasonable recommendations to Government with reference to the needs of each case. In the meanwhile he would assure the House that on the first appearance of signs of distress in any part of the State, Government would be prepared to show whatever measures of relief might become necessary.

THE DEWAN promised that Government would cause enquiries to be made as to whether there was distress in any particular tracts at present, and if so whether any relief works were necessary, and if it was found as a result of that enquiry that relief works were called for in any case, Government would be prepared to start such works.

Supplementing the remarks of the Revenue Commissioner, the FIRST

MEMBER OF COUNCIL assured the House that there need be no apprehension in any quarter that as a result of the recent rains in many parts of the State, Government had entertained the idea that the agricultural conditions had suddenly improved to such an extent that there was no need for any special vigilance on their part. Of course, Government were glad to receive reports of rainfall from almost all parts of the State and they were hoping that further showers would be received. In view, however, of the fact that rains had since held back, Government shared the disappointment with the people and so, as in duty bound, they were considering the action to be taken in the event of special measures of relief becoming necessary.

Periods of anxiety due to unfavourable seasonal conditions were perhaps a new experience to many members, but such experiences were not new to the Government. So many times in the past, similar situations had arisen and the action to be taken has been carefully studied and standardised, so that if unfortunately the situation during the coming months required the adoption of special measures, Government were prepared to face the situation. For example, in the course of the discussion, certain speakers had suggested that Government might have to take up, as part of famine relief operations, a number of tank maintenance works waiving the raiyats' contribution in respect of such works and so on. But these were items which had been contemplated by Government in the past and definitely provided for in the Famine Code and other special orders of Government. As an instance in point, he reminded the House that in connection with the distress that prevailed in 1924, Government had specifically ordered that Deputy Commissioners could exercise full discretion in the matter of waiving such contributions. No one therefore need be under the impression that Government required to be advised as to the general policy in facing such situations.

MR. CHENGALARAYA REDDY, interrupting, observed that he did not mean to say that Government were not prepared to modify the provision relating to recovery of the raiyats' contribution in respect of tank maintenance or any other village works. His only point was that Government should not merely postpone the recovery of such contributions but should bear as a final charge the entire expenditure on such works from State funds alone.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL replied that there was provision for suspending or reducing or altogether waiving the raiyats' contribution and each case would be considered on merits. The point he was trying to make out was that Government were quite ready to start relief works the moment they were convinced that such works were called for.

A suggestion had been made that in the event of the raiyats being driven to starvation, the Government should lose no time in giving them work as part of famine relief operations. Even this was not a suggestion new to Government. In fact, it was their intention to see if possible not only that work was provided for all such men, but also that the work provided should be near their own places of residence so that not even one individual would have to go about from place to place in quest of work. This, he hoped, would serve as a guarantee to all leaders of public opinion that Government were prepared to meet whatever situations arose in course of time. He appealed to the members of the Assembly to clearly bear these circumstances in mind and to say or do nothing which would have the effect of creating a scare in any part of the country, because it would have a disastrous psychological effect so far as the general public was concerned.

At this stage, MR. V. VENKATAPPA protested that nobody was anxious to create a scare. If he or any other member of the Assembly had dilated on the gloomy prospects for the immediate future, he would assure the Government that the only object was to bring to their notice that the situation was really bad and was likely to become still worse.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL, continuing, referred to Mr. Mahomed Imam's suggestion that Government might think of taking action from now to prohibit exports of food grains, and stated that though the Government were quite prepared to take such action in case of real necessity, so far as the present situation was concerned they were firmly of opinion that such action was not called for and was inadvisable. And he added that if ever such action became necessary, Government would have to be prepared for other Governments taking similar action.

MR. T. RAMACHANDRA suggested that in connection with distress operations, co-operative societies be instructed to make special arrangements for stocking and distributing foodstuffs.

THE FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL replied that the Registrar of Co-operative Societies had already issued circular instructions in this behalf. This was another instance to show that all possible anticipatory action had been taken by Government. Not only that. In other Administrations, there was an elaborate procedure to precede a declaration of famine, whereas the policy in Mysore was much more simple and favourable to the taking up of relief measures. One definite source of satisfaction with regard to the organisation of relief works was the existence of village panchayets in all rural parts and District Boards. Though it was not the intention of Government to transfer any of their responsibilities in the matter of famine relief, yet these local bodies were in a position to co-operate with Government in rendering all possible relief to the people. It was in the full expectation of enlisting such hearty co-operation from local bodies that Government felt assured that work to all able-bodied persons would be provided within their own villages. If therefore, as adverted to by Mr. Mahomed Imam, any case of persons going about in quest of work came to the notice of any member of the Assembly he would request such member to report the same immediately to the concerned Amildar or Sub-Division Officer or Deputy Commissioner who would gratefully receive the information and see that work was provided to the person forthwith.

More than one member had referred to the need for remission of 25 per cent of land revenue demand and one or two had suggested even a higher percentage. In this respect also, Government were prepared to go as far as the situation demanded in particular areas and if it became necessary to do so, they would not hesitate to suspend or remit even the full assessment; but this was a question which would have to be decided with reference to the needs of each individual tract. It might be that in some cases suspension of revenue—partial or whole—would be necessary; in some cases a partial remission may have to be given and in some others, the entire demand might have to be remitted. Without, therefore, a reference to the local conditions and actual needs, it would be quite inexpedient for Government to announce straightaway that land revenue would be either suspended or remitted in all cases.

Government sympathised with the suggestion that loans would have to be given on a liberal scale both for the subsistence of the affected people and for the purchase of fodder for cattle. In fact, already there were rules governing the grant of such loans at low rates of interest. But Government could not agree to the suggestion that such loans should be interest-free and much less to the suggestion that loans should be given without demanding security. But these were comparatively small issues. In conclusion, he assured the House that Government fully sympathised with the raiyats in their present hour of anxiety. But he earnestly appealed to the members not to get unnecessarily disturbed over the situation; for, on the one hand, Government hoped that the situation in days to come would, after all, not be so distressing as apprehended in some quarters, and on the other, Government were fully prepared to meet whatever situation actually arose.

The House adjourned at 5-15 p.m. to meet again at 12 of the clock the next day.